

**4-310 -A Site Summary- Islay Creek Inlet****4-310 -A**

County: **San Luis Obispo**  
 USGS Quad: **Morro Bay South**

Thomas Guide Location  
 651 B-5  
 NOAA Chart: **Estero Bay 18703**

Latitude N  
 35.27472  
 Longitude W  
 120.88761

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014
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**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

See Division G map. Islay Creek Inlet. This site is with in Montana de Oro State Park at Spooners Cove. Islay Creek inlet is at the north end of pocket gravel beach. Creek is designated critical habitat for steelhead trout (endangered). Offshore is Audubon Society Important Bird Area, large concentrations of brandts cormorants.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Species of concern are present year round.  
 Steelhead trout (critical habitat) peak spawning March-July.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Throughout Division G, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat).

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals.

Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

Abundant seabirds and shorebirds, including the brown pelican and pigeon guillemots, grebes, loons, black oyster catchers.

Southern sea otters can be observed offshore.

The Black legless lizard (federal candidate species) is also in this area.

Steelhead trout (threatened species) in creek.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

This area has archeological sites of concern. Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

**KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)**

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

# 4-310 -A Site Strategy - Islay Creek Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location  
651 B-5 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART  
Estero Bay 18703

# 4-310 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
35.2747 120.88761

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oil could penetrate gravel beach fronting creek.  
Steelhead (critical habitat) peak spawning March-July.  
Black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat) in this area.  
To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds when possible.  
Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

SHORELINE PRE-CLEANING may be warranted before oil reaches the beach when the shoreline is covered with kelp, driftwood, etc which could become oiled and create more oiled waste. Consult with trustees prior to engaging in activities on shoreline. Move unoiled vegetation, driftwood, etc. above the high tide line. When the shoreline is narrow, un-oiled debris may need to be stockpiled elsewhere. It is suggested that photos be taken to document distribution of beach debris prior to collection so that it can be replaced to its pre-spill distribution when spill cleanup is complete. Pre-cleaning of shorelines should be conducted by hand crews to the greatest practical extent to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Site is within Montana de Oro State Park. Dept of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and State Dept. of Parks and Rec. must be notified and should be consulted before staging motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted.

## SITE STRATEGIES

### Strategy 4-310.1 Objective: Exclude oil from creek inlet by berming or with sandbags.

When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm (fine to medium grained sand), and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. To create protective berm take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. When erosion from waves or overflows could erode berm, armor berm and banks by covering with plastic sheeting anchored by sandbags. When overflow could occur due to accumulation of water behind the containment berm install underflow piping and/or a spillway in the berm. When overwash could bring oil into inlet over berm back exclusion/containment berm with containment and/or sorbent booms and/or snare. Regular monitoring and maintenance will be necessary (2 staff twice daily). Check for berm effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom position and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

### Strategy 4-310.2 Objective: Exclude oil from creek by booming.

When creek mouth is open block entrance with a short skirted containment boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. When suitable berm materials are unavailable and/or when tidal flows, waterflows, or water depths are too great for berming install exclusion booms near mouth of Inlet/lagoon using short skirted boom and snare boom. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Use swamp boom backed by sorbent booms, if waters are shallower, and use harbor boom backed by sorbent booms, when water depths are greater. Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

### Strategy 4-310.3 Objective: Exclude oil from creek by fencing.

When creek mouth is closed consider installing excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover.

When creek mouth is open use a filter barrier for exclusion/containment – Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 20 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, the spill consists of heavy petroleum, and berming or booming methods are not feasible due to lack of materials or accessibility. Construct a filter barrier across the channel using two parallel rows of metal stakes, upon which construction fencing is fastened. Place permeable sorbent materials such as snare or excelsior, between the two lines of fencing to capture oil. Re-adjust sorbent materials as necessary minimize entrainment and/or leakage and to accommodate flow, tidal, oceanic, and meteorological changes. Replace sorbent materials as necessary to maintain sorbent quality.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-310.1							1	SSS	Sand bags, piping, plastic sheeting	6	
4-310.2		100			2		1	SSS		4	
4-310.3			100 FF				1	SSS	Excelsior fencing, metal stakes	4	

## LOGISTICS

**DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Los Osos Valley Rd (LOVR) exit, just south of San Luis Obispo. Take LOVR until it

turns into Pecho Valley Rd. Take PVR to the end to Spooners Cove, a cove below State park Headquarters and campground.

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 101 S) to LOVR exit. Follow directions from above.

**LAND ACCESS:** Vehicle access possible not preferred

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp, approx. 10 miles north. Could launch small skiffs from Spooners Cove during calm waters.

**FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:**

Staging Area: Parking /Picnic area at Spooners Cove.

Command Post: State Parks Headquarters at Montana de Oro (small building). U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.

Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 45 min. south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 1 hour inland.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

